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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/039,565	12/21/2001	Andrew Mark Stringer	41759-57619	3948
21888	7590	06/15/2006	EXAMINER	
THOMPSON COBURN, LLP ONE US BANK PLAZA SUITE 3500 ST LOUIS, MO 63101				NEURAUTER, GEORGE C
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		2143		

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

TRADE MARK OFFICE

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<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/039,565	STRINGER, ANDREW MARK
	Examiner	Art Unit
	George C. Neurauter, Jr.	2143

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 April 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                            2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-9 and 12-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3-9 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

**DETAILED ACTION**

Claims 1, 3-9, and 12-15 are currently presented and have been examined.

***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 18 April 2006 has been entered.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-9, and 12-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the

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invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 3-9, and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6 088 687 to Leleu.

Regarding claim 1, Leleu discloses a method of electronic payment for data transferred across a computer network containing at least one client, at least one server and at least one router which forwards data, the method comprising the steps of sending an electronic data request from a client to a server via one or more routers; sending electronic data in the form of data packets from said server to said client via one or more routers in response to said electronic data request, (Figure 2; column 3, lines 54-column 4, line 5; column 4, lines 20-26; column 6, line 14-column 7, line 60)

whereby the operation of the server is governed by a server protocol which causes the data packet sent from the server to have associated with it a data field containing a value which represents a monetary worth of the electronic data in the data packet, (column 2, lines 7-11; column 4, lines 29-36; column 8, lines 49-61; column 9, lines 5-11)

whereby each of said one or more routers has a router protocol which causes each router to forward the data packet in accordance with a routing table and to update the value contained in the data field to reflect the added monetary worth of the electronic data in the data packet associated with the action of forwarding the data packet. (column 2, lines 12-23; column 4, lines 40-43; column 9, lines 13-22)

Regarding claim 3, Leleu discloses the method according to Claim 1, wherein each of said one or more routers receives an incoming data packet, containing electronic data and a data field associated with the electronic data in the incoming data packet, reads the value in the data field, calculates a new value based on the read value and the cost of forwarding the packet, and forwards the data packet with the new value in the associated data field. (column 2, lines 12-23; column 4, lines 40-43; column 9, lines 13-22)

Regarding claim 4, Leleu discloses the method according to Claim 3, wherein each of said one or more routers checks whether the value in the data field associated with the electronic data in the incoming data packet falls within predefined parameters and rejects the packet if the value falls outside the predefined parameters. (column 4, lines 61-67)

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Regarding claim 5, Leleu discloses the method according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic data request has associated with it a data field containing a value which represents the commercial value of the data contained within the electronic data request. (column 1, line 66-column 2, line 2)

Regarding claim 6, Leleu discloses the method according to Claim 1, wherein total accumulated values for transactions between routers or between routers and servers/clients are recorded. (column 4, lines 44-56)

Regarding claim 7, Leleu discloses the method according to Claim 6, wherein clearance payments are made between the operators and/or users of the routers and servers/clients, the clearance payments corresponding to the total accumulated values. (column 4, lines 44-56; column 16, lines 3-5 and 9-17)

Claims 8 and 9 are also rejected since claim 8 recites a system that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 1 and 3 in combination and claim 9 recites a system as recited in claim 4.

Claims 12-13 are also rejected since claims 10-13 recite a method that contain substantially the same limitations as recited in claims 3-4 respectively.

Regarding claim 14, Leleu discloses a method according to claim 1, in which the requested data is sent from said server to

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said client in the form of a packet, wherein said packet comprises a packet header, the packet data containing the requested data, and the packet header containing one or more address fields containing address information relating to the client and/or server and a data field containing a value which represents a commercial value of the requested data contained within the packet data. (column 2, lines 7-11; column 4, lines 29-36; column 8, lines 49-61; column 9, lines 5-11)

Claim 15 is rejected since claim 15 recites a method that contains substantially the same limitations as recited in claim 3.

#### **Conclusion**

It is noted that the column, line, and/or page number citations used in the prior art references as applied by the Examiner to the claimed invention are for the convenience of the Applicant to represent the relevant teachings of the prior art. The prior art references may contain further teachings and/or suggestions that may further distinguish the citations applied to the claims, therefore, the Applicant should consider the entirety of these prior art references during the process of responding to this Office Action. It is further noted that any alternative and nonpreferred embodiments as taught and/or suggested within the prior art references also constitute prior

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art and the prior art references may be relied upon for all the teachings would have reasonably suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. See MPEP 2123.

The prior art listed in the PTO-892 form included with this Office Action disclose methods, systems, and apparatus similar to those claimed and recited in the specification. The Examiner has cited these references to evidence the level and/or knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide support for universal facts and the technical reasoning for the rejections made in this Office Action including the Examiner's broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims as required by MPEP 2111 and to evidence the plain meaning of any terms not defined in the specification that are interpreted by the Examiner in accordance with MPEP 2111.01. The Applicant should consider these cited references when preparing a response to this Office Action.

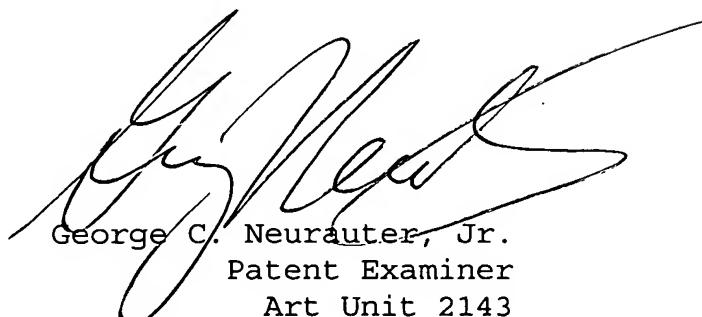
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be

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reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



George C. Neurauter, Jr.  
Patent Examiner  
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